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Tip of the Week

Talk to me

You might think that your arm would get tired if you used your computer to make a phone call, holding it up to your ear. Luckily, you don't have to. With a computer, a modem, a microphone and a phone line connected to your computer, here's how: With the computer, you can step to your telephone:

1. Click on Start, Drive to Programs + Accessories + Phone Dial.
2. Enter the number you want to dial, either in the box or on the keypad. This works just like a regular telephone. If you need to dial a prefix for an outside line, be sure to do it later.
3. Click Dial.
4. The line goes through, you'll hear the person you've called through the speakers; they hear you through the microphone on the computer. When your phone call is over, click Hang up.

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Review

Scrabble: A Hasbro e-mail game

Hasbro Interactive / www.e-mail-games.com / Win 98/95 / \$15 (EZ2 CAD)

Last week in this space, we introduced you to the concept of Hasbro's new email games. This week, we look at Scrabble under a microscope.

It plays just like the Scrabble you've been playing for years. You're allotted seven tiles at a time, and you do your best to create the highest-scoring combination of letters and place them on the "board" in the words you see as possible plays. (The triple-word-score tiles are surely color-coded; the overall screen size makes the tiles too small to accommodate the words.)

The computer keeps track of your current score as well as the score for the current word placements for both you and your opponent. Can't think of a good word? Pass your turn. Stuck with nothing but vowels? Exchange a tile with your friends' word to have it altered for you.

There's also a text feature so you can "chat" with each other as you send the game back and forth. But I wonder: Does this game a means to socialize, or merely another way to cut down on human contact in the age of increasing computer age? Unless you're truly distanced from your friends, geographically, why not have them over and play the original Scrabble face to face? — Beth Kujawski

Web Watch

Hamsters seem like they're good pets. They have lots of space. You don't have to walk them on cold, snowy nights. And they look cute holding food in their little hands and nibbling on it with their little teeth.

A look at the world ...

<http://home.clara.net/arview/george.htm>

From the hamster's point of view. Read the stories of George the hamster George, sadly, is no longer with us, but his hamster legacy lives on.

When hamsters turn bad

<http://www.ehspan.net/~miguel/soft/checkbox.html>

It's like "War of the Worlds," if "War of the Worlds" was about evil hamsters instead of Martians. "Cheeble Killer Hamsters from Space" is actually the product of a science-fiction club from Itron High School.

Endorsed by Babwa Wawa?

<http://www.teleport.com/~trsonia/wodeest.html>

If Gilda Radner were still alive, I sure like to know what Babwa Wawa's wife pretends to be Babwa Wawa. Meanwhile, we'd like to know who decided a rose would be an appropriate prop on this site?

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